

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 through 26 are presently pending. In an office action mailed November 20, 2003, (Paper No. 5), claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,038,590 granted to Gish (hereinafter "*Gish*"). These rejections are
5 respectfully traversed. New claims 25 and 26 are herewith presented for examination.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by *Gish*. In particular, it is alleged that *Gish* discloses a property monitoring system that generates a display
10 that can include a user-selectable combination of device class and property at col. 16, lines 19-32. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Gish fails to provide a basis for the rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as it fails to disclose each element of the claimed invention. For example, claim 1 includes an "interface controller for managing operation of a plurality of devices *at two or more properties*
15 via a wide area network, each of the devices belonging to one or more of a plurality of classes and having a unique communication protocol associated therewith, the interface controller comprising . . . a property monitoring system coupled to the information processing layer, the property monitoring system generating a display that can include a user-selectable combination of device class and property." (Emphasis added). In contrast, the cited section of *Gish* at col
20 16, lines 19-32 states that an "application created in accordance with a preferred embodiment consists of a set of components that cooperate with each other. A server component can be implemented in any source language that can call a C program. A client component is implemented in the Java programming language. The client component consists of a Graphical User Interface (GUI) and a Presentation Engine (PE). To complete the application system, a
25 preferred embodiment provides a communication layer that enables the exchange of messages between the client and the server components, an Exception layer for reporting errors, and an Access layer for managing application deployment. The task of an application developer

utilizing a preferred embodiment is to assemble the components into an application system.” Not only is the word “property” not used anywhere in the cited section, the section refers to software applications and does in any way relate to a plurality of devices at two or more properties. In fact, *Gish* states at col. 17, lines 46-51 that an “application 440 is insulated from the physical properties of the specific distributed platform on which the application is deployed. Thus, the application components and set of message events remain constant while the distributed platform can be scaled and modified.” Thus, rather than disclosing a network communications layer for communicating with a plurality of devices at two or more properties, *Gish* discloses a client-server state machine in an enterprise computing framework system that would insulate the plurality of devices at different locations, to the extent it is alleged that the distributed platform includes a plurality of devices at different locations, and further fails to disclose that any of the components of that system are located anywhere other than within the physical property premises of a single enterprise.

Likewise, claim 17 includes a “client system for enabling management of the operation of a plurality of associated devices *at two or more properties* by a remote interface controller via a wide area network, each of the plurality of devices belonging to one or more of a plurality of classes and having a unique communications protocol associated therewith the client application also for interfacing with a property monitoring system that can generate a display that can include a user-selectable combination of device class and property.” Again, nothing in *Gish* suggests that the enterprise computing framework system includes a plurality of associated devices at two or more properties, or that a property monitoring system that can generate a display that can include a user-selectable combination of device class and property. *Gish* instead insulates application 440 from the physical properties of the specific distributed platform on which the application is deployed, presumably at a single property.

Claim 22 includes an “information provider system for communicating with an interface controller via a wide area network, the interface controller being for managing operation of a plurality of devices *at two or more properties* via the wide area network, *each of the devices belonging to one or more of a plurality of classes* and *having a unique communications protocol associated* therewith, the information provider system comprising a data access layer and at least one database, the data access layer being configured to facilitate interaction by the interface controller with the at least one database on behalf of all of the plurality of devices

60 according to a single set of rules, the data access layer also being configured to facilitate interaction by the interface controller with *a property monitoring system that can generate a display that can include a user-selectable combination of device class and property.*" Again, *Gish* fails to disclose a plurality of devices at two or more properties, where each of the devices belongs to one or more of a plurality of classes and has a unique communications protocol associated therewith, and also fails to disclose a property management system that can generate a
65 display that can include a user-selectable combination of device class and property. Instead, *Gish* appears to be used in an enterprise computing framework at a single property, and insulates application 440 from the physical properties of the specific distributed platform on which the application is deployed, which would thus prevent any property management system from obtaining data to generate a display that can include a user-selectable combination of device
70 class and property from any of the devices belonging to one or more of a plurality of classes and having a unique communications protocol associated therewith.

Claim 24 includes a system for managing operation of a plurality of devices at a plurality of properties via a wide area network, each of the devices having a unique communication protocol associated therewith . . . wherein data generated by each of the plurality of devices at each of the plurality of properties can be stored in the at least one database. Again, *Gish* does not disclose that there can be a plurality of devices at a plurality of properties, and unsulates data from such devices from being transmitted using a unique communication protocol for storage in a centralized database.

New claim 25 includes the "interface controller of claim 1 wherein the plurality of devices include one or more of a phone system, an entertainment/movie system, a security system, an environmental and energy management system, an accounting system, and a reservation system, and the property monitoring system generates a display that can include a user-selectable combination of device class and property for one or more of the devices." *Gish* fails to disclose a property monitoring system that allows a user to select one or more devices selected from a phone system, an entertainment/movie system, a security system, an environmental and energy management system, an accounting system, and a reservation system, much less the generation of a display that can include a user-selectable combination of device class and property for one or more of the devices.

New claim 26 includes the client system of claim 17 wherein the plurality of devices

include one or more of a phone system, an entertainment/movie system, a security system, an environmental and energy management system, an accounting system, and a reservation system, and the client system allows a user-selectable combination of device class and property for one or more of the devices to be managed at the remote interface controller. *Gish* fails to disclose a remote interface controller that allows a user to select one or more devices selected from a phone system, an entertainment/movie system, a security system, an environmental and energy management system, an accounting system, and a reservation system, much less management of a user-selectable combination of device class and property for one or more of the devices.

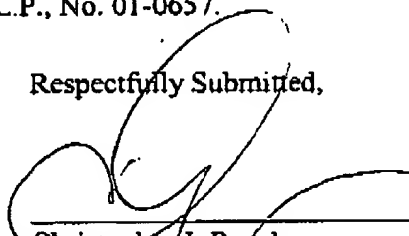
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and for various other reasons readily apparent, Applicants submit that all of the claims now present are allowable, and withdrawal of the rejections and a Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

If any impediment to the allowance of the claims remains after consideration of this amendment, a telephone interview with the undersigned at (214) 969-4669 is hereby requested so that such impediments may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

An additional fee of \$36.00 is believed to be required with this response for two additional dependent claims. If any other applicable fee or refund has been overlooked, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or credit any refund to the deposit account of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P., No. 01-0657.

Respectfully Submitted,



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